

HB 7150 – An Act Implementing the Governor’s Budget Recommendations Concerning Education

Chairman McCrory and Sanchez, Ranking Members Berthel and McCarty, and esteemed members of the Education Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on HB 7150 regarding the Governor’s Budget Recommendations Concerning Education. I am particularly troubled about the Governor’s proposal for teacher pension sharing with the municipalities.

While I understand the duty Connecticut has to fund pensions for our teachers, I am opposed to HB 7150 regarding sharing teacher pensions with municipalities. The Governor’s proposal does not take into consideration the following factors:

- Forcing towns to pay these annual contributions will create gaps in our small town budgets, and will therefore cause large increases to property taxes. This, coupled with the other proposals put forward (like a new state car tax, increased special education mandates, etc.) will cripple small town budgets.
- Inability of municipalities to negotiate pensions – It is not fair to have municipalities contribute to these long neglected obligations of the state, when our locally elected municipal leaders are not able to have a say in these pension negotiations (as this occurs at the state level).
- The cost of living is very different across the state -- this proposal punishes the areas with a higher cost of living.

In closing, I hope you will oppose HB 7150 and any other legislation that opens the door to the pushdown of the teacher’s pensions to the municipalities.

Thank you again for allowing my testimony.

Best regards,

Lisa Carpenter
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